

THE FIRST EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONGRESS OF MYRMECOLOGY

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This was held on the initiative of Dr. H. Kutter and by invitation of Dr. C. Baroni-Urbani on February 3-7, 1969, in the Zoology Department of the University of Siena. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the taxonomic problems of European Formicidae. The participants included Dr. C. Baroni-Urbani, Secretary/Organiser; C. A. Collingwood, U.K.; G. M. Dlussky, U.S.S.R.; W. Faber, Austria; C. Gaspar, Belgium; H. H. F. Hamann, Austria; H. Kutter, Switzerland; G. Le Masne, France; D. Paraschivescu, Roumania; B. Pisarski, Poland. In addition a number of ant specialists signified their active interest in correspondence. As a result of the discussions, the following decisions were made:—

A new European fauna will be prepared as a joint enterprise between the participants and any other willing collaborators. This undertaking has been stimulated, in part for the need for a definitive account of European Formicidae long overdue, and in part, by certain shortcomings in F. Bernard's recent work *Les Fourmis d'Europe occidentale et septentrionale*: Masson & Cie, Paris, 1968. This book has been extensively reviewed by Le Masne and collaborators* and despite many qualities it demonstrates the impossibility of one man successfully accomplishing a work of this scope at the present time. A number of genera and some 60 well authenticated European species, in particular in the genera *Aphaenogaster*, *Cataglyphis* and *Camponotus*, are omitted by Bernard; keys to some of the more important genera such as *Myrmica* and *Leptothorax* are misleading and in part unworkable and several of the many otherwise excellent illustrations are inaccurate.

The intended new work will be written in English and comprise:—1, a short morphological introduction to the Formicidae; 2. an identification key to subfamilies and genera; 3. a definition of each caste for each genotype; 4. a concise identification key to all forms of each species within a genus; 5. a short chapter on each species including a complete synonymy,

a description of all castes, geographic variability and distribution and a list of all studied material.

As a first step to preparing this fauna, a list for each European region shall be catalogued during 1969 after the model of Ceballos 1956 for Spanish Hymenoptera and the compilation divided among co-workers as follows:—British Isles, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iberian Peninsula: Collingwood; Belgium and Netherlands: Gaspar; Germany: K. Gösswald and collaborators; Poland: Pisarski; European U.S.S.R.: K. V. Arnoldi, Dlussky; Roumania: Paraschivescu; Hungary: Hamann; Czechoslovakia: Faber, K. Samšinak; Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, European Turkey: Baroni-Urbani, Pisarski; Italy, Corsica, Istria and Maltese Islands: Baroni-Urbani; Switzerland: Kutter; France: H. Cagniant and collaborators. A catalogue of the more important national collections and of types shall be prepared for circulation to all collaborators.

Groups for revision in 1970 have been allotted to co-workers as follows:—*Ponerinae*, *Dorylinae*, *Leptanillinae*: R. W. Taylor (C.S.I.R. Canberra); *Myrmica*, *Manica*: Collingwood, Arnoldi, Kutter; *Stenamma*: Arnoldi; *Aphaenogaster*: Baroni-Urbani, Cagniant; *Messor*: Arnoldi, Baroni-Urbani; *Pheidole*, *Oxyopomyrmex*: Baroni-Urbani; *Cardiocondyla*: Arnoldi; *Crematogaster*: Baroni-Urbani; *Monomorium*: Collingwood; *Diplorhoptum*, *Solenopsis*: Pisarski; *Leptothorax*: Faber, Arnoldi, Cagniant, Kutter; *Doronomyrmex*: Kutter; *Myrmecina*: Baroni-Urbani; *Tetramorium*: Hamann; *Strongylognathus*: Baroni-Urbani, Pisarski; *Teleutomyrmex*, *Brachymyrmex*: Pisarski; *Acantholepis*: Dlussky, Pisarski; *Cataglyphis*: Arnoldi; *Proformica*: Dlussky; *Raptiformica*: Gösswald, H. Kneitz (Würzburg), Paraschivescu; *Coptoformica*: Kutter, Dlussky, *Serviformica*: Kutter, Dlussky, Collingwood; *Formica* s. str. Gösswald, Kutter, Kneitz, Paraschivescu; *Polyergus*: Paraschivescu; *Rossomyrmex*: Arnoldi; *Camponotus*: Arnoldi, Pisarski Gaspar; *Paratrechina*, *Prenolepis*: Paraschivescu; *Lasius*: Collingwood; remaining parasitic genera: Faber; list of myrmecophilous animals: Le Masne.

The descriptive matter and illustrations for this work will be according to an agreed standard and the whole shall be presented in an uniform styling for which Dr. Baroni-Urbani will be mainly responsible with assistance from Collingwood and Taylor in the preparation of the English text.

The proposed date limit for completion is January 1971 but in order to achieve this, close collaboration between all participants is essential and all help from outside collaborators and museums is required. It is requested that all communications with offers of help and specimens be addressed to the Secretary/Organiser, Dr. C. Baroni-Urbani, Zoology Institute, Via Mattioli, 4, University of Siena, Italy.